

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, pages 2-7, filed 24 February 2010, with respect to claims 1, 4, 5 and 17-21 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 USC 103(a) rejections of claims 1, 4, 5 and 17-21 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 17-21 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach alone or in combination a controller comprising, along with the other claimed features, a rotatable platter including a top surface and a side circumferential skirt substantially perpendicular to said top surface, said circumferential skirt includes a random pattern and a relative displacement detecting optical system wherein said optical system being positioned to optically acquire surface sequential images from said random pattern of said side circumferential skirt and calculate difference in said sequential surface images of said random pattern thereby determining the direction and relative displacement of rotation of said rotatable platter.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANCIS M. LEGASSE JR whose telephone number is (571)272-9798. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 7:30 pm E.S.T.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps can be reached on (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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